



U.S. Department of Justice

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **For Information Contact:**

#### **Public Affairs**

(202) 252-6933

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/dc/news/2011/apr/news.html>

## **District Teenager Sentenced to Three Years in Prison For Burglary in Northeast Washington - Defendant Admitted Putting a Knife to an Elderly Victim's Neck -**

WASHINGTON - Tyrice Sutton, 17, of Washington, D.C., has been sentenced to a three-year prison term in connection with a home invasion that took place in broad daylight last year in Northeast Washington, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

Sutton pled guilty in October 2010 in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia to charges of first degree burglary and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, both felonies. He was sentenced on August 12, 2011 by the Honorable Ronna L. Beck. Judge Beck also sentenced Sutton to a year in prison for an unrelated car theft. Following completion of his prison terms, Sutton will be placed on five years of supervised release.

According to the government's evidence, on May 23, 2010 at about 10:15 a.m., Sutton entered the residence of the victim, an elderly woman who was home alone in the 4000 block of 13<sup>th</sup> Place NE. While doing laundry in her basement, the victim heard a noise coming from upstairs. She went upstairs to investigate and discovered Sutton hiding behind boxes that were stacked in the living room. The victim recognized the defendant as a friend of her grandson, who had previously visited her house.

The victim asked Sutton what he was doing in her house. Sutton claimed that he came to steal property from the victim's grandson to get even with him over an earlier dispute. Sutton eventually asked the victim if he could use her telephone to call someone to pick him up.

However, when she went to get the telephone, Sutton came from behind and put a knife to the victim's neck and told her to put down the phone. He then ordered her into the bedroom. Terrified, the victim refused and began to scream and cry. Sutton tried to stop the crying and asked her for a hug. Thinking quickly, she pushed Sutton and ran down the stairs and locked the basement door. She then fled to an alley, in her pajamas, and summoned a neighbor for help.

Sutton remained inside the house and stole an X-box video game system, four video games, and \$10, among other things, prior to fleeing on foot. The victim reported the incident to the police and a warrant was issued for Sutton's arrest.

Police arrested Sutton on May 29, 2010. At the time of his arrest, Sutton was asleep inside a sports utility vehicle that had been stolen from the owner's driveway that same day.

Sutton admitted to police that he entered the victim's home on May 23 without permission, put a knife to the victim's neck and took property from her home without permission. Furthermore, he admitted that he stole the SUV.

In announcing the plea, U.S. Attorney Machen commended Metropolitan Police Department Detectives John Hamer and Randal Parker of the Fifth District Criminal Investigation Division, who led the investigation, as well as Detectives Thomas Stein, Anita Hilderbraund, and Eric Shuler, and Officers Brian Gates, Molina Jacqueline and Crime Scene Technician Erin Price. Finally, U.S. Attorney Machen expressed his appreciation to Paralegal Kalisha Johnson-Clark, who prepared the case for indictment, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Terry Eaton, who conducted the pre-indictment investigation and is prosecuting the case.

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